

**NH Department of Education
Changes in School & District Improvement (SINI & DINI) Plan Review and Approval Process
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

Note: This FAQ is a follow-up to the 8-19-11 memo from Commissioner Barry to Superintendents, advising of procedural changes in the review and approval process of school/district improvement plans.

What has changed in the NHDOE's process for reviewing improvement plans/progress reports?

Consistent with state and federal accountability law, the local school board is the responsible entity for oversight of a school or district's plan for improving student performance. To that end, the NH Department of Education has clarified its role in the review and approval process of SINI/DINI plans and progress reports, resulting in a shift from reviewing all plans to an indicator-based process for determining if a plan is "in need" of review. The indicators include, but are not limited to:

- a school's cumulative index score in the "all students" category, and its ranking in relation to other schools in the state;
- whether one or more schools in the district meets the state's definition as "persistently low performing";
- the number of years the school or district has been identified for improvement;
- program-specific requirements (i.e. the use of Title I SINI/DINI professional development set-aside funds, alignment to PD master plans, Title III Corrective Action requirements, etc.)
- a request from the school or district for specific feedback on areas of concern

Which plans/progress reports are affected by this change in procedure?

Plans submitted by SINI (Years 1-3) and DINI (Years 1 and 2) will be reviewed "as needed", based on the indicators referenced above.

Which plans/progress reports are not affected by this change?

Plans submitted by SINI (Years 4 and higher) and DINI (Years 3 and higher) will continue to be reviewed.

We post our improvement plan on our website. Why do we have to send the link to the NHDOE?

As a public document, the posting of your plan provides greater transparency and access to your plan by constituents. By sending us the web link to your plan, the NHDOE can more effectively respond to inquiries from the general public, including other schools and districts, requesting such information.

Who are my contacts at the NHDOE regarding the improvement plan review process?

The initial contacts for submission of plans, website links and technical questions are below. If further assistance is needed, Kristine or Ellie will direct your inquiries to the appropriate NHDOE consultant(s).

<u>Title I</u>	<u>Non-Title I</u>
Kristine Braman at: kbraman@doe.nh.gov NH Department of Education Attn: Kristine Braman 101 Pleasant Street Concord, NH 03301	Ellie Riel at: eriel@doe.nh.gov NH Department of Education Attn: Ellie Riel 101 Pleasant Street Concord, NH 03301